SLS Celebrates 30 Years of Supporting Science!

We are celebrating our 30th birthday this year! On 20th May 1991, Scientific Laboratory Supplies was founded, with the intention of providing the laboratory market with something different. A lot has changed in the past 30 years, so we thought we would look back at some milestones achieved along the way...

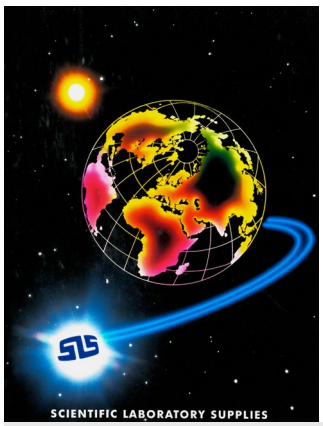
SLS started with just two employees in 1991 and has since grown to become the UK's largest independent supplier of laboratory equipment, chemicals, and consumables. 1994 saw the launch of our first SLS catalogue, and by 1995 we had grown to over 30 full-time staff.

Towards the end of the 1990's, we opened our office in Scotland, and achieved the important milestone of our first order for over £1million.

The early 2000's saw the assets of Rosslabs, Flowgen Bioscience Ltd and Phillip Harris Scientific absorbed into SLS with our team growing to over 90 employees. During this



Scientific Laboratory Supplies original headquarters in Nottingham





L: SLS' first catalogue, 1994. R: Original SLS van livery, 1995

decade, we launched our first website and in 2008 we held the first Scientific Laboratory Show & Conference, which has now grown to welcome over 1200 attendees from the scientific community in Nottingham, with the next show scheduled for May 16-18th 2022.

The following decade saw SLS become the Club Partner of Hull City AFC during the most successful years in their history.

As the company continued to grow rapidly, we moved to a larger warehouse facility, established the SLS Service Centre and launched SLS Select Education, a division dedicated to supporting secondary science education.

In 2016 we acquired Analab and joined the Dutscher group, as well as launching another new catalogue and website to keep up with an ever-changing market. The SLS family at this point has grown to 170 employees. We even found some time to send catalogues into space!

The past few years have seen yet more exciting developments, with SLS being awarded the '1000 Companies to Inspire Europe' Award in 2019; the same year in which we acquired Wolflabs. Most recently, we were chosen by the Department of Health and NHS England to support the vaccine storage rollout by supplying ULT freezers for the UK's supply of the COVID-19 vaccine. This was a complex project in tight timescales, but we were delighted to complete the rollout with absolute success - an achievement we are hugely proud of.

It is fair to say that our evolution over the past 30 years has been significant, but one thing that has remained constant is our unwavering commitment to our customers through a personal, tailored, and flexible approach. We remain a business that is all about people and we pride ourselves on providing precisely what you need, exactly when you need it.

We want to thank everyone who has been a part of the SLS family along the way and especially our customers and supply chain partners for choosing SLS and putting your faith in us. We look forward to the next 30 years of supporting our customers in their incredible work in the aim of contributing to a healthier, smarter and safer world.

Want to know more? View our timeline here. Find out more about SLS by watching this short video.





L: SLS Nottingham R: SLS shirt sponsor for Hull City

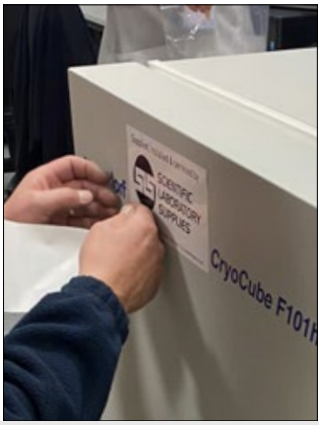


SLS catalogue launched into space, 2018



SLS staff at the 2018 Scientific Laboratory Show & Conference





L: SLS join the Dutscher group R: SLS supply covid-19 vaccine storage